

Message Text

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PAGE 01 VALLET 02543 081408Z
ACTION EUR-12

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R 081342Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY VALLETTA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8392
INFO USICA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L VALLETTA 02543

USICA FOR ECA AND EU
STATE FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY VEST FROM THE AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS

SUBJECT: WASHINGTON VISIT BY LABOR PARTY PARLIAMENTARIAN

REFS: A) VALLETTA 1879, B) VALLETTA 1780

1. FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE 1971 WE HAVE MANAGED TO
ARRANGE FOR A LABOR PARLIAMENTARIAN TO VISIT THE US ON
AN IVP GRANT. NOT SURPRISINGLY, WHEN FOREIGN SECRETARY
ABELA HEARD THAT THE PRIME MINISTER HAD APPROVED THIS
VISIT, HE CALLED IN THE GRANTEE, JOSEPH SCIBERRAS, AND
INSTRUCTED HIM TO TRY TO SEE SENIOR OFFICIALS IN THE
DEPARTMENT WHILE HE IS IN WASHINGTON. ACCORDING TO
SCIBERRAS, ABELA WANTS HIM TO URGE US ONCE AGAIN TO
ENCOURAGE FRANCE AND ITALY TO BE MORE FORTHCOMING ON
ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE AND TO PUSH US TO DO MORE TO MEET THE
GOM'S REQUEST FOR EXCESS PROPERTY. SCIBERRAS ASKED OUR
ASSISTANCE IN ARRANGING APPOINTMENTS AND MENTIONED THAT
HE WOULD BE IN TOUCH WITH LESLIE AGIUS IN WASHINGTON TO
HELP OUT AS WELL.

2. I WOULD APPRECIATE IT IF YOU WOULD SEE SCIBERRAS. THE
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SUBJECTS HE WISHES TO DISCUSS SHOULDN'T GIVE US ANY REAL
PROBLEMS (I.E. AS FAR AS WE KNOW HE IS NOT GOING TO RE-
PEAT THE GOM'S REQUEST FOR A CONCESSIONAL LOAN) AND YOUR
SEEING HIM WILL SHOW THAT WE CONTINUE TO BE INTERESTED IN
MALTA'S CONCERNS. IN ADDITION THE MORE WE CAN DO FOR
SCIBERRAS THE GREATER THE CHANCES ARE THAT WE WILL BE
ABLE TO GET OTHER LABOR MP'S TO THE US ON THE IV

PROGRAM, WHICH WE FEEL IMPORTANT IN OUR EFFORT TO IMPROVE OUR RELATIONS WITH THE GOM AND THE YOUNGER MEMBERS OF THE MLP.

3. SCIBERRAS IS A MODERATE, ATTRACTIVE AND INDEPENDENT-MINDED (FOR AN MLP MEMBER) POLITICIAN AND HAS BEEN ACTIVE IN INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS FOR THE GOM, PARTICULARLY WITH THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE. HE HAS BEEN ON GOOD TERMS WITH EMBASSY OFFICERS FOR SEVERAL YEARS AND WE VALUE HIM AS A GOOD CONTACT.

4. SCIBERRAS PLANS TO ARRIVE IN WASHINGTON AUGUST 16 AND WILL STAY THERE UNTIL AUGUST 22. HE SAID HE WOULD BE AVAILABLE TO SEE YOU AT ANY TIME DURING THAT PERIOD OR IF NECESSARY HE IS WILLING TO RETURN TO MALTA VIA WASHINGTON AROUND SEPTEMBER 15. HE ALSO RAISED THE POSSIBILITY OF SEEING THE SECRETARY BUT I'M REASONABLY CONFIDENT THAT WE TURNED THAT IDEA OFF. LAINGEN

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